

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

The stackable and collapsible transport box of the present invention comprises a base plate and four side walls connected to the base plate via hinge joints. Two mutually opposite side walls are collapsible in a lower first plane and the two other side walls which are also mutually opposite, are collapsible in a higher second plane. The base plate comprises a plurality of supporting pillars preferably located in corner regions of the base plate that are arranged as ~~tubular tube~~ tube elements beneath the base plate and arranged as ~~angular angle~~ angle elements above the base plate. The ~~angular angle~~ angle elements are provided with step-like arrangements which may receive ~~tubular tube~~ tube elements of another similar or identical transport box in the collapsed state. Each of the ~~angular angle~~ angle elements preferably comprises a short section and a long section. The two side walls collapsible in a higher plane each comprise a rectangular cut-out in the two corner regions which fit the long section of the ~~angular angle~~ angle elements. These two side walls may be provided with at least two inwardly bent edges having an ~~and~~ upwardly tapering edges tapered bevel so that the side walls may be placed above one another. Each of the edges may be provided with a bevel which may be reinforced with several superimposed transversal ribs. In addition, each of the side walls may be provided with longitudinal and transverse ribs in at least the corner regions and in the extension of the ~~angular angle~~ angle elements so that the transport box may have a carrying capacity of approximately 1000 kg. The transverse and longitudinal ribs may be welded to a stiffening flat cover so that the transport box may have a carrying capacity of approximately 4500 kg.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 28 and ending on page 3, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The transport box may also be provided with a plurality of runner elements. The runner elements are provided with projecting cams that are fastened to the ~~tubular tube~~ tube elements of the supporting pillars. These runner elements may be identical or diametrically opposed so that they may form a quadrangle which corresponds to the transport box when the runner elements are

inserted in the ~~tubular~~ tube elements. Each of the runner elements and the cams is provided with a hollow arrangement and each of the cams comprises reinforcing elements. Furthermore, each of the runner elements may be provided with a flat groove and may be connected via connecting elements.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 34 and ending on page 4, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 1 and 2 show an embodiment of a stackable and collapsible transport box 1. In this embodiment, the transport box 1 is provided with a pallet-like base plate 2, two longer and mutually opposite side walls 3 and 5, and two shorter and mutually opposite side walls 4 and 6. The corners of base plate 2 are provided with corner supporting pillars 8. The corner supporting pillars 8 consist of a tube element 10 ~~above~~ below base plate 2 and an ~~angular~~ angle element 11 ~~below~~ above base plate 2. The tube element 10 has a cross section in the form of an oblong hexagon. The ~~angular~~ angle element 11 comprises a short section 12 and a long section 13. Central supporting pillars 15, arranged as tube elements, are provided between the corner supporting pillars 8. The central supporting pillars 15 have a hexagonal cross section. The corner supporting pillars 8 and central supporting pillars 15 are mutually connected via runner elements 16. The assembled runner elements 16 form a closed rectangle. The adjacent side walls 3 and 4 are each provided with a removal flap 18 and 19, respectively. The removal flaps 18, 19 are substantially trapezoid shaped. A respective cut-out 21, 22 is provided in each adjacent side walls 3, 4, into which the removal flaps 18, 19 fit in a flush manner.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

The shorter side wall 4, shown in Figure 2, may be flipped inwardly by means of a joint connection or a hinge 28. This side wall 4 is provided with a rectangular cut-out 29, which matches the shorter section 12 of the ~~angular~~ angle element 11. The longer side wall 3 is provided with two upright and inwardly bent edges 30. These edges 30 are provided with a bevel 32 which slightly tapers upwardly. The longer side wall 3 may also be flipped inwardly by means of a joint or a hinge 33. As shown in Figure 2, the plane of the hinge joint 33 is higher

than the plane of the hinge joint 28 so that, in the collapsed state, the shorter side walls 4, 6 may lie beneath the longer side walls 3, 5. The longer side walls 3, 5 are also provided with rectangular cut-outs 34, matching the long section 13 of the ~~angular~~ angle element 11. Turn-lock fasteners 35 are provided in the shorter side walls 4, 6, which may be used to fasten side walls 4 and 6 to side walls 3 and 5.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in Figures 3 and 4, runner elements 16 are provided for the transport box. The runner elements may be arranged either as a short element 16a and a diametrically opposed short element 16b, or as a long element 16c and a diametrically opposed long element 16d. Each runner element 16 is provided with an oblong, hollow supporting part 36, an inner cam 37, and an outer cam 38. The runner elements 16 may be mutually connected via a connection element 39 by inserting the connection element 39 into the cavities or flat grooves 50 of the supporting parts 36. The two outer cams 38 of the short element 16a and the long element 16d are shaped in a diametrically opposed way and are each provided with a notched separating wall 40a, 40d. These two separating walls 40a and 40d thus fit into each other so that the two outer cams 38 may fit into the tube element 10 of the corner supporting pillar 8. The inner cams 37 of the short element 16a and the diametrically opposed short element 16b are also provided with a diametrically opposed configuration so that they fit precisely into the central supporting pillar 15, which is arranged as a tube element. Thus, a closed rectangular supporting frame may be formed. The inner cams 37 and outer cams 38 may be fastened, via screws (not shown in the figures) through bores 42 provided in the cams 37, 38, to the corner and central supporting pillars 8, 15 of the transport box 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 27 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 7 shows another embodiment of the transport box 1 in the collapsed state. In this embodiment, the shorter side walls 4, 6 of the transport box 1 in the collapsed state have been first placed on top of each other, and then the longer side walls 3 and 5 have been placed on top

of the shorter side walls 4, 6. Since the longer side walls 3 and 5 are configured identically, the sequence with which they are placed on top of each other is irrelevant. As shown in Figure 7, the ~~angular~~ angle elements 11 are each provided with an inner step 47 so that they may receive the runner elements 16 of another similar transport box. Thus, transport boxes 1 in both the collapsed state and erect state may be stacked in any desired sequence.